

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-8, 11, 14-17, 20-24 and 27-30 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 4, 11, 14-17, 20 and 27 are amended. These claims are amended for clarification purposes only, and not for reasons of patentability.

Claims Objection

Claims 1, 4, 11, 14-17 and 20 are objected to due to informalities. By this Amendment, claims 1, 4, 11, 14-17 and 20 have been amended to obviate the objections. Withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. §112 Rejections

Claims 1, 4-8, 11, 14-17, 20-24 and 27-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, 2nd paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

With regard to the features of “allocate circuit switch resources to ATM and IP traffic in order to route such traffic to a packet switch fabric”, it is submitted that the present application particularly points out and distinctly claims these features.

For example, beginning on page 9, line 10 through page 10 a process of provisioning switch fabrics is discussed. This process includes setting aside resources in order to route traffic to a packet switch. Such resources include STM crossconnect entries related to local TDMs. Earlier (p.4, lines 9-10) a TDM was discussed as being an STM or circuit switch. Page 9, line 17 describes the traffic which may be routed to the packet switch as ATM and/or IP traffic.

Thus, the provisioning process described on pages 9 and 10 of the specification sets aside circuit switch resources in order to route traffic to a packet switch.

With regard to the feature of "to one or the other of said circuit or packet switch fabrics", it is submitted that claims 1 and 20 have been amended to more clearly recite the claimed invention.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of claims 1, 4-8, 11, 14-17, 20-24 and 27-30.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John E. Curtin at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

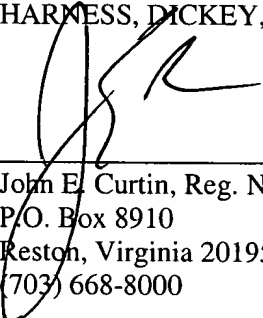
In the event this Response does not place the present application in condition for allowance, applicant requests the Examiner to contact the undersigned at (703) 668-8000 to schedule a personal interview.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKEY, & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By



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